

Bio: Theodor Holm Nelson

Ted Nelson is a software designer, writer and film-maker who has been in the computer field for thirty-five years.

He is the founder of interactive media and digital network publishing. Word processing, HyperCard* and World Wide Web are all derivative from his work, which has since 1960 centered around the Xanadu project.

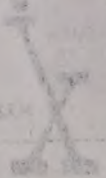
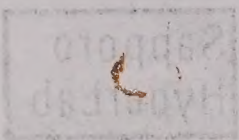
He coined the terms "hypertext" and "hypermedia" in 1965, but few people understood these ideas until the late nineteen-eighties. (The term "hypermedia" did not take off until 1994, with the astonishing success of World Wide Web.)

Mr. Nelson holds a B.A. degree in philosophy from Swarthmore College and an M.A. degree in sociology from Harvard. He has written many articles and several books, including *Literary Machines*, now available in Japanese translation.

He currently holds the title of Research Fellow at the Sapporo HyperLab in Sapporo, Japan, where he is working with Professor Yuzuru Tanaka of the University of Hokkaido, Marlene Mallicoat of Ted Nelson Studios, and a staff from a number of prestigious Japanese corporations.

* Trademark of Apple Computer.

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Ted Nelsons Homepage



- 1965 Invented the word *hypertext* (and later *hypermedia*)
- 1981 *Xanadu*, a central, pay-per-document hypertext database encompassing all written information
- Ideas:
 - text on screens
 - personal computing
 - interactive software
 - populist network publishing
 - transparallel viewing
 - transpointing windows / transpointing arrows
 - fast easy gestural interfaces
 - hypertime versioning
 - new document topologies
 - alternative versioning
 - transclusive literature
 - automatic royalty purchase of small fragments
 - transcopyright permission
 - freedom of republication (unrestricted transpublishing)

"Telling computer guys that they need to have permission to quote things is like having to tell little children about Death..."

- [Project Xanadu](#)
- [Xanadu America \(Sensemedia\)](#)
- [Xanadu Australia](#)
- [Xanadu FAQ](#)
- [Home page](#)
- [ON.ted.nelson](#)
- [Hypermedia Timeline](#)

ted@xanadu.net

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ABOUT

Theodor Holm Nelson

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Kubla Khan

OR, A VISION IN A DREAM. A FRAGMENT.

by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree :
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.
So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round :
And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills,
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree ;
And here were forests ancient as the hills,
Enfolding sunny spots of greenery....



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Theodor Nelson

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Wanda Kwan

OR, A VISION IN A DREAM, A FRAGMENT

by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

In Kew's old Kew's Kew
A stately pleasure-dome decayed;
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.
So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round;
And there were gardens bright with silken flies,
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree;
And here were forests ancient as the hills,
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- 1981 created a central, pay-per-document hypertext database encompassing all written information
- Ideas
 - text on screens
 - personal computing
 - interactive software
 - popular network publishing
 - transparent viewing
 - transparent windows / transparent arrows
 - fast easy personal interfaces
 - hypertext versioning
 - new document topologies
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